

a head- or face-mounted image display apparatus that can be retained on the observer's head or face.

2. Discussion of Related Art

An example of a conventional head- or face-mounted image display apparatus, an image display apparatus disclosed in Japanese Patent Application Unexamined Publication (KOKAI) No. 3-101709 (19910 is known. In this image display apparatus, an image that is displayed by an image display device is transmitted as an aerial image by a relay optical system including a positive lens, and the aerial image is projected into an observer's eyeball as an enlarged image by an ocular optical system formed from a concave reflecting mirror.

Page 14, beginning at line 16, and continuing on page 15, lines 1-3, delete the entire paragraph and replace it with the following:

First, assuming that the prism optical element according to the present invention is used as an ocular optical system (observation optical system) of an image observation apparatus or an image display apparatus, the prism optical element is formed from a prism member in which at least three internal reflection take place, and the prism member is filled with a medium having a refractive index larger than 1. Therefore, the ocular optical system can be made extremely thin by the above-described optical path folding effect. In addition, aberration correction can be made even more effectively by the arrangement in which at least three internal reflections take place. Thus, it is possible to present an observation image which is clear as far as the edges of the image field. In this regard, the prism optical element according to the present invention will be described below more specifically.

See the attached Appendix for the changes made to effect the above paragraphs